

U.S. Patent Application No. 10/769,146
Attorney Docket No. 351991-991320 (Formerly 2102475-991320)

REMARKS

Please cancel claims 1 and 6-20.

New claims 21-28 have been added. Support for these claims can be found in FIG. 1 and the accompanying text, as well as FIG. 8. For example, new claim 25 is supported by the description beginning at page 10, line 8 of the specification. Similarly, new claims 26-28 are supported by the description beginning at page 9, line 26. The new claims are also supported by the original claim 1. Accordingly, no new matter has been added.

Previous claims 1 and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2005/0088794 to *Boerstler et al.* ("Boerstler"). Previous claims 2-4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Boerstler*. Applicant respectfully traverses, noting that *Boerstler* does not disclose all elements of claims 2-5, or new claims 21-28. More specifically, *Boerstler* does not disclose an integrated circuit whose power supply terminal is connected to its internal circuit.

With reference to FIG. 5 of *Boerstler*, *Boerstler* discloses an ESD-protection removal system in which processors 502 are ESD-protected by diodes 505, 506. Diode 505 is connected to a voltage supply 508, while diode 506 is connected to ground 511. Interposed between the processors 502 and diodes 505, 506 is a fuse 504. Accordingly, high voltages of either a positive or negative polarity will forward bias diode 505 or 506, respectively, generating either a ground path to ground 511, or a conductive path to voltage supply 508, thereby blowing the fuse 504 and disconnecting the ESD-protection of diodes 505, 506.

Note that, in *Boerstler*, the voltage supply 508 is connected to diode 505, and not to the processors 502. Accordingly, the power supply terminal of *Boerstler*, if any, is not connected to the internal circuits of a semiconductor IC. Rather, its power supply terminal is connected to a diode 505. Thus, new independent claim 21 is patentable over *Boerstler* for at least the reason that it discloses "a power supply terminal connected to the internal circuit" where the internal circuit includes "a plurality of MOS (Metal Oxide Semiconductor) transistors . . .".

The remaining claims depend from claim 21 and are thus patentable for at least this same reason.

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CONCLUSION

In view of the above, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 2-5 and 21-28 are now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the number below in order to speed the prosecution of this application.

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies in fees and credit any overpayment of fees to Deposit Account No. 07-1896.

Respectfully submitted,

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